

JACK WEST

2018 Jack West Barossa Valley Shiraz

With a first name John and a family name anchored deep in the story of the Barossa's western ridge, John Lienert is also known as 'Jack West', elusive and enigmatic winemaker and grapegrower. A name that rings big and bold, just like the character of these wines. Made in the vineyard and hitting the mark for those seeking generously flavoured Barossa reds.

Vineyards

Over the last 20 years, brothers John and James Lienert have transformed the family's farm on the western edge of the Barossa Valley into a viticultural wonderland. Every grape used to craft a Jack West wine is grown in those vineyards, where the broad blue skies, long sunny days and famed 'terra rossa' soils allow flavour and solid structure to develop naturally.

The elevated position takes advantage of afternoon sea breezes from nearby St Vincent Gulf to cool the canopy, producing bright aromatics and retaining natural acidity in the wines.

2018 Vintage

Just two words are required to describe the 2018 Barossa vintage. Bloody. Marvellous. Preceding winter rains were fair to average, with further 'sprinkles' through spring and early summer resulting in resplendent canopies and a well hung crop. A bit of the hot stuff is always to be expected in South Australia in January, but that rubbish gave way quickly to the type of weather that affords a bit of hard work and a lot of cold beer. Big blue skies, gentle breezes, crisp cool nights and an entirely unrushed harvest as nature coughed up an absolute cracker.

Winemaking

Fruit is sourced from selected blocks on our vineyard estate at Gomersal on the Barossa Valley's western ridge. Harvested in the cool quiet of night (that is if you can ignore the clatter of the harvester), the fruit is destemmed and fermented in open top stainless steel fermenters. Twice daily pump overs ensure good colour, flavour and gentle tannin extraction whilst promoting vibrant sub regional varietal expression on the nose. Maturation in seasoned French and American hogsheads for 9 months softens the wine and adds a subtle nuance of vanilla.

Tasting Note

A big burst of black/ blue spiced fruits on the nose, with complex flavours of black cherry and sarsaparilla spice on the palate wrapped around a firm tannin backbone that is the hallmark of Shiraz grown in our family's vineyards.

James Lienert, Understudy to Mr West

Reviews and awards

92 points, Gary Walsh – The Wine Front May 2020

93 points, Sam Kim – Wine Orbit October 2020

